The Trial of Napoleon Bonaparte

The purpose of this trial is to judge the actions of Napoleon Bonaparte. Was he a great leader and patriot, or was he a power-hungry dictator? The year is 1815 and his last 100 days as a general have ended on the fields of Waterloo. What are we to do with this man? Our task is to examine his life and produce a verdict on the charge of “crimes against humanity,” a charge later used against the Nazis after World War II. Be careful because the Congress of Vienna, which is sponsoring the trial, may not be completely innocent!

**Cast of Characters**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Judge

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Court Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lawyers for the Prosecution (Quadruple Alliance)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lawyers for the Defense

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Witnesses for the Prosecution

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Prince Metternich of Austria

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Czar Alexander I of Russia

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lord Castlereagh of Great Britain

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Duke of Wellington (Great Britain)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A Prussian Nationalist soldier

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ An anti-Napoleon French soldier who fought in Russia

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A British merchant and trader

## Witnesses for Napoleon

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Napoleon Bonaparte

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Chief Justice of the French Court

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A French School Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A loyal French soldier

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A French peasant

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ An Italian nationalist

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A loyal French officer who fought at Austerlitz

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Preparation and Expectation for the Participants

**1. Judge and Clerk(s)**

* Be familiar with courtroom procedures
* Are responsible for conducting the trial and making sure all participants are following proper legal procedures
* Participants must complete a typed summary of their respective duties in a trial. Summary should follow the suggested order of trial listed below. Summary should also cover what their characters will say and how they will deal with lawyers and witnesses during the trial.
* Summary must be distributed to the lawyers and to Ms. Wheless by Day 3.

**2. Lawyers**—must understand how each witness (their own or hostile witnesses) will

contribute to the legal strategy.

**Each legal team must:**

* Complete an introductory speech which outlines:

-the witnesses they will call in their favor

-the weaknesses of the opposing side’s case

-the major arguments of their own case

* Write a closing statement which

-summarizes the arguments in favor of their case

-explains the weaknesses of the other side’s arguments and witnesses

-a recommendation on sentencing

\*\*Lawyers should write this conclusion before the trial by anticipating

what will happen, but they should also leave room (with signed

planner) on the conclusion of the trial to add details which may

emerge during the trial

* Prepare at least six (6) questions for each of their own witnesses which highlight

-their witnesses’ title and position

-their experience(s) regarding Napoleon

-their opinion about Napoleon

\*\*Lawyers will need to share the questions with each witness and reach a

consensus on the best questions.

* Prepare at least 2 – 3 questions for their cross-examination of hostile witnesses

-These questions should put the witness on the defensive and reinforce the

arguments of the cross-examining lawyers

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**3. Witnesses**—Must prepare a (minimum) 200-300 word summary of your character

* The summary should include your character’s upbringing, position, general political beliefs and opinions towards Napoleon
* Witnesses who are not a specific historical character will have to create much of their character, as long as it is within reasonable limits and nothing inaccurate about Napoleon is said.

\*\*These characters are important for what they represent about

Napoleon

* Summaries should be turned into all lawyers and Ms. Wheless by Day 3
* Witnesses must also create 6 – 10 likely questions they would face from their lawyers. An appropriate answer for each question is also required. These will also be shared with the lawyers.

**4. Napoleon**—Assist defense attorneys and prepare a (minimum) 200- 300 word

summary of your character

* + The summary should include your character’s upbringing, position, general political beliefs

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**Trial Procedure**

I. Opening the Trial

1. The Entry of the judge
2. The opening statement of the clerk
3. The entry of the prisoner

II. Taking Pleas

1. The introduction of the lawyers
2. The reading of the charge against the accused
3. The plea of the prisoner

III. Opening Statements

1. Prosecution
2. Defense

IV. The Case for the Prosecution

1. The examination of the prosecution witnesses, with cross-examination and

rebuttal

V. The Case for the Defense

A. The examination of defense witnesses, with cross-examination and rebuttal

VI. Summations by Counsel

1. Defense
2. Prosecution

VII. The Verdict

1. The decision of the jury regarding guilt and sentencing

VIII. Closing the Trial

1. The exit of Napoleon and the judge

## Additional Notes for ALL

1. Like any mock trial, many things will have to be improvised. Each witness, for

example, may have to create many elements of his or her character.

**2. Use resources other than your text and make sure you turn in a bibliography to me!**